

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8639

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 5179

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BE, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: VAN DER STOEL INTERVIEW ON NATO AND DETENTE

1. SUMMARY: ON OCCASION OF VISIT TO BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 12

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OF DUTCH PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL AND FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER
STOEL, " LE LIBRE BELGIQUE" CARRIES FRONT PAGE SEPTEMBER 12

INTERVIEW WITH THE LATTER. FOLLOWING ARE QUOTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON NATO AND DETENTE, IN WHICH VAN DER STOEL SAYS THAT NETHERLANDS WILL REMAIN IN NATO WHILE PURSUING DETENTE AND THAT NATO SHOULD BE AN ALLIANCE OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. VAN DER STOEL ALSO MENTIONS IMPORTANCE DUTCH ASCRIBE TO NATO DEFENSE SPECIALIZATION STUDY. END SUMMARY.

2. QUOTE QUESTION: IS NOT A PREDICTION (ON THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT) MORE UNCERTAIN WITH REGARD TO THE FUTURE OF NATO, ABOUT WHICH YOUR PARTY TOOK RADICAL POSITIONS DURING THE LAST ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN?

ANSWER: THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO REMAIN A MEMBER OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE BUT WE HOPE THAT ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS WILL BE TAKEN TO FAVOR DETENTE. IS THAT NOT THE VIEW OF BELGIUM? ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE FORMULATED A SERIES OF WISHES SUCH AS, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OF SEEING NATO BE AN ALLIANCE OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES. MR. VAN SLANDE HAS SAID THE SAME THING. FINALLY, THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE PROPOSALS OF THE CREDISTRIBUTION OF DEFENSE TASKS IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. WE INSIST ESPECIALLY ON THE NECESSITY OF A SPECIALIZATION FOR EACH MEMBER AND WE DO NOT CONCEAL THE FACT THAT WE ACCORD GREAT VALUE TO THE REALIZATION OF OUR PROPOSALS.

QUESTION: YOU DON'T THEN ANY LONGER WANT THE PURE AND SIMPLE ELIMINATION OF DEFENSE TASKS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE ADMITTED THAT COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OUGHT TO BE A NATO MISSION, BUT WE ARE OF THE OPINION THAT OTHER TASKS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE ORGANIZATION. I REMIND YOU THAT BESIDES THERE IS A "HARMEL PLAN". IT FALLS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DETENTE THAT WE ARDENTLY HOPE FOR AND THAT WE BELIEVE CAN BE DEVELOPED BY THE DIALOGUE WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE WARSAW PACT.

QUESTION: IS NOT THIS DETENTE NOW MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY THE STATEMENTS OF CERTAIN SOVIET INTELLECTUALS?

ANSWER: DETENTE IS AN EXTREMELY SLOW PROCESS. THAT THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REGIMES OF THE EAST AND WEST CANNOT BE DENIED, AND THAT THESE DIFFERENCES MAKE THINGS MORE DIFFICULT IS NO LESS TRUE. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO MULTIPLY EFFORTS FOR ACCELERATING THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. IN THIS SPIRIT, WE AWAIT THE SECOND PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN

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SECURITY AND ALSO THE WORK OF MBFR. IT IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE THAT PROGRESS BE RECORDED IN THE MATTER OF SIMULTANEOUS REDUCTION OF ARMS. I REPEAT: IN OUR EYES, IT IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO LAY CONCRETE BASES FOR THE AMPLIFICATION AND ACCELERATION OF DETENTE. END QUOTE. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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